

current conditions and how they may affect the role of the governments of our states in the future. In this era of violent social and economic upheaval, an analysis of all the conditions and the effects they are likely to produce would be a gigantic task—certainly not possible in any brief discussion. But I think it is possible to examine, and perhaps to interpret, some of the more pronounced of the new conditions under which we live.

Some of the most serious of the problems which confront us today are from a single cause—the growth and redistribution of the population. In my State, seven of every ten persons now are urban dwellers—that is to say, they live either in the cities or the suburbs. I know that proportion of urban to rural dwellers does not exist throughout the South, but the trend toward rapid urbanization is everywhere and the problems it produces will be with us all for many years of the future. The contamination of the water we drink, or otherwise use, and of the air we breathe is a problem of the first magnitude where people live close together in large urban areas. The slums of our cities, and the evils they spawn such as poverty, ignorance, disease and crime, have been called by many persons of knowledge and authority the nation's number one domestic problem. The problem of moving people and the goods they consume—the problem of mass transportation and the construction of streets and highways—is intensified by the growth and greater concentration of the population. We share, I know, a common disappointment and feeling of frustration in our failure to solve the problem of highway safety—a product of the way we live.

One would go on with an almost endless string of new problems, or old ones aggravated by the changed conditions under which we are living. Their solution will require the combined efforts of government at all levels—federal, state and local. It is gratifying, from my point of view, that the federal government is accepting a heavier responsibility in some of these areas—notably, in the problems of the cities, in the elimination of poverty and disease, in water and air pollution, in mass transportation, in highway safety. But this does not mean a diminuation of State responsibility. On the contrary, our efforts toward the alleviation of these ills must be intensified and accelerated, and state governments should lose no time in preparing themselves for the assumption of heavier obligation.

What can we do to accomplish this?

Well, for one thing I think the entire structure of state government should be modernized, streamlined, brought up to date. In Maryland,